

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 2, 2010

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The **Eighth Special Session** ended on Thursday with three bills posted. S1001 passed and was signed by the Governor.

The Governor's statement can be found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_040110_StatementGovBrewer.pdf

The 8th Special Session tracking list of all legislation from this session can be found at:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24553&listid=42431&print=true>

Switching back and forth from the 8th Special Session, 493 floor actions took place this week in the 2010 Regular Session.

This week the following actions were filed on legislation tracked by the Council:

HB 2026: Advisory Council on Aging; Continuation - 3/30 passed Senate; ready for the Governor

HB 2028: Hard of Hearing Commission; Continuation - 3/30 passed the Senate; ready for the Governor

HB 2029: Department of Health Services; Continuation 3/30 passed the Senate; ready for the Governor

HB 2242: Reverse Mortgages; Regulations from Senate Commerce and Economic Development amendment #4891

No hearings posted for next on bills being tracked by the Council on Aging:

Note: You can find the agendas for hearings and check to see if the times have changed or committees have been cancelled at the Arizona State Legislature website link:

Committee Agendas:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=&ShowAll=ON>

At the end of day 82 of the 2010 Arizona Legislative Session: 1,233 bills posted, 159 memorials or resolutions posted, forty two bills passed, three signed; 162 memorials/resolutions and eight memorials/resolutions passed.

Both the House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, April 5, 2010.

Session Deadlines: April 17th marks the last day for conference committees (by Senate and House rule)

To view the legislation being tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, click on the list below:

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24520&listid=40701&print=true>

Note: This list contains some bills that haven't seen action, and while nothing is dead until the Legislature adjourns sine die, the chances for the bills' passage are poor.

The **FULL LIST** website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list **does not** represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It does mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

If you have a particular perspective to share, you can voice your opinions to:

The **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at **602-542-4331** or toll-free at **800-253-0883**

Or you may contact the Legislator from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and

looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.2962

Blind Persons Return to Work Act of 2010

Introduced on 1/28/2010, the bill is sponsored by Senator Christopher J. Dodd (CT) and has five cosponsors: Senator Roland Burris (IL), Senator Thad Cochran (MS), Senator Mike Crapo (ID), Senator John McCain (AZ), and Senator Olympia J. Snowe (ME)

Blind Persons Return to Work Act of 2010

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to:

- (1) apply a specified earnings test in the determination of the amount of monthly insurance benefits for blind beneficiaries;
- (2) limit to once a year any review of a determination of disability based on blindness;
- (3) reduce any excess earnings of blind beneficiaries by the amount of impairment related work expenses.

S.2962:

Directs the Commissioner of Social Security, with respect to the mandatory annual report of earnings by an individual entitled to a monthly insurance benefit, to develop procedures to avoid paying less than the correct amount of benefits to any such individual as a result, during the year, of a termination of employment or a significant reduction in hours of work.

On 1/28/2010, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website **<http://www.thomas.gov/>** and enter the bill number or description under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

From: Federal Transit Administration

The Federal Transit Administration has unveiled a new Mixed-Income Transit-Oriented Development Action Guide created by the Center for Transit-Oriented Development. The guide can be accessed at:
http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1103253594023&s=12445&e=001SBaOGs6uUBIzum9Imwu8HX6cVY8E8YUc0v_s-uY_-u1a8rZBm8eDIZZdV9II7E9luoiQLU3MD7Hcst8Mh-MrXn1dH6oumiaxQleTb47hKBbux6YCYF8uUmURdBwTQK6HZx3SOMgKPTg=

From: Kaiser Family Foundation

Timeline detailing when specific provisions of health care reform legislation are scheduled to take effect:

<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/8060.cfm>

Summary of final health reform law:

<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/8061.cfm>

From: Administration on Aging

As part of this year's activities and events to honor older Americans, the U.S. Administration on Aging is inviting individuals to share their recipe for strength in a national contest. Entries should creatively promote the Older Americans Month 2010 theme Age Strong! Live Long! and may be submitted as a video, photograph, poem, or essay. For more information on the specifics, visit:
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/2010/Contest.aspx

Information & Resources:

WHAT: Financial Fraud Prevention Expo

WHEN: Thursday, April 22, 2010, 9 Noon, The Colonnade, 19116 N. Grand Marketplace Way, Surprise, AZ 85374

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/MEAPA2010FinancialFraudPreventionExpo.pdf>

WHAT: Disability Empowerment Center Health and Wellness Fair 2010

WHEN: Saturday, April 10, 2010; 10 am 3 pm; Disability Empowerment Center (DEC), 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HealthWellnessBrochure.pdf>

WHAT: Caring for a Loved One At Home; Family Caregiver Training Classes

Sponsored by Northern Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Program & the Town of Prescott Valley

WHEN: May 3, 4, 6th and May 11 & 12, 2010, Prescott Valley Civic Center, 7601 E. Civic Circle, Room 331, Prescott Valley, AZ

For more information and registration, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/Flyer1PrescottValley.pdf>

WHAT: TimeOUT Workshop; Mental Health Issues in the Elderly

WHEN: Thursday, May 6, 2010, Hansen Mortuaries, 6500 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeoutFlyerAndRegForm2010UpdatedWithSpeakers.pdf>

WHAT: American Indian and Alaskan Native Long Term Care Conference

2010; Circles of Care: Providing Choices to Elders and Families

WHEN: May 4 & 5, 2010; Embassy Suites Hotel, Phoenix-Scottsdale, 4415 E. Paradise Village Pkwy S., Phoenix AZ

For more information: <http://www.aianlongtermcare.org/>

The Governor's Office on Aging is pleased to be a Co-Sponsor of Afternoon Sessions at the **2010 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference**

WHEN: Friday, May 21, 2010, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Due to overwhelming response to last year's conference, **registration is encouraged as soon as possible!**

Register online at <http://www.azalz.org/> or call 480-440-7177

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging